

PLEDGE SIGNING
— IN —
SUNDAY SCHOOLS



**Issued by the P. B. of Moral and
Social Reform.**

Pledge Signing in Sunday Schools.

The Question.

The temperance question is one of the biggest which, as a Church or State, we have ever been forced to face. Never until we stand face to face with it in all its ramifications will we know its stupendous character. It will never be solved by mere legislation, although legislation will form a most effective ally to that end, it makes possible a solution that could not otherwise be tried.

Legislation.

Like all other questions affecting the moral life and well-being of the land, this must be solved finally through the child. The child's education is the only permanent and final solution. In the meantime we must protect our children from such vicious exposure as would render such education abortive,—ourselves from those who through drink have lost their moral sense and our land from those who consult first and ever their base and criminal self.

Education.

As a Church we can use our influence in shaping the educational policy of our land so that it will embrace such instruction ; but we can institute such instruction in our Sunday School at once.

Pledge-Signing.

Unfortunately there is a sentiment on the part of some against pledge-signing. Why this should be is not clear. Parents teach their children to make promises and keep them, so do secret societies, labor organizations, etc., as does every kind of social, commercial and industrial life. If pledge signing as a matter of business is justifiable, how much more as a safeguard of the moral and economic life.

What One School Did.

Preparation.

The Supt. announced that next Sunday would be a temperance field day and pledge signing campaign when Dr. D— will speak of "The Evil Effects of Alcohol on the Body," Dr. C— will speak on "The Cigarette," Mr. D— will tell "How They Affect the student" and Mr. M— will show "Their Influence on Business." The children were notified that they would be asked to sign the pledge ; and to discuss this with their parents before coming to the school.

The Addresses.

After the opening exercises, Dr. D— was called upon. He brought with him and placed on the superintendent's desk a row of liquors, representing the line of habit. He showed what a boy generally started with, traced the growth of the habit from one thing to another, picturing as he went the effect, until he ended with the horrible story of a drunkard's end. Dr. C— followed with a vivid story of the cigarettes, as did the other two, showing the effect of these evils on the child at school and the man at business.

Signing the Pledge.

In the light of what was said the Supt. explained that nobody wanted to drink. "Facing the competition of to-day the boy and man must always be at his best. He could not be if he drank. Here were pledges to sign to show our determination and to encourage others. We want you all to sign it if you feel free to do so."

Immediately the minister said "I want to be first to sign, as I do not need it for any physical or moral purpose." The Supt. who is a prominent lawyer said "A lawyer does not need it, so I will sign." The doctor said "A doctor is better without, so I will sign." The business man said "It kills business, therefore I'll sign." After this there was a rush of boys and girls along with their teachers to sign the pledge.

An Intelligent Thing.

They had all heard expert evidence. These men—the doctor, lawyer, etc., spoke with authority. When they afterward signed the pledge, the children saw that it was a manly and intelligent thing and were delighted to follow such an example. In years to come they will associate their pledge signing with three prominent men, and their ideas will in large measure be formed from what they heard on this occasion.

Repeat the Effort.

To repeat such a service occasionally, when other prominent men may be secured to address them—when the names of those who signed before may be read, will prove very effective. Any school trying such will find it a most delightful and efficient method of educating our children to meet one of the greatest problems of modern life.



